

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 PRS-01 DPW-01 RSR-01

EUR-10 IO-03 /070 W

----- 045920

R 2"0059Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5054

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13391

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 SIT REP, JULY 23

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 23 INFO CINCPAC USDAO SAIGON  
USSAG NKP RTAFB REPEATED FOUR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

NHA TRANG 717

1. SECURITY SITUATION: THERE WERE 35 INCIDENTS DURING THE  
72-HOUR REPORTING PERIOD, WHICH IS A SLIGHTLY LOWER AVERAGE  
DAILY RATE THAN HAS PREVAILED DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS.  
CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES, HOWEVER, WERE HEAVIER THAN USUAL.

2. BINH DINH AND KONTUM EACH HAD 11 INCIDENTS, BINH THUAN AND  
PLEIKU FOUR, PHU YEN TWO, AND KHANH HOA, QUANG DUC AND DARLAC  
EACH HAD ONE. THERE WERE 19 ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE, FOUR  
SQCCESFUL FRIENDLY SEARCH PATROLS, FIVE ENEMY GROUND ATTACKS,  
THREE ENEMY MININGS, THREE FIREFIGHTS AND ONE SUCCESSFUL ARVN  
MECHANICAL AMBUSH. THE CASUALTIES AMOUNT TO: VC/NVA - 63 KIA  
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(28 IN KONTUM), 4 CAPTURED (1 IN KONTUM); RVNAF: 11 KIA (3 IN KONTUM), PLUS ONE POLICE CHIEF KILLED BY A MINE IN HIS OFFICE IN HAM THUAN DISTRICT, BINH THUAN; AND 38 WIA (14 IN KONTUM). VNAF FLEW 32 "TRAINING AND REHEARSAL" AIR MISSIONS IN KONTUM ON JULY 21 AND 17 ON JULY 23.

3. PLEIKU/KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS THAT GROUND ACTION IN BATTLE FOR TRUNG NGHIA AND POLEI KONG CONTINUED OVER WEEKEND IN ESSENTIALLY SAME PATTERN, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT ARVN ADVANCES.

4. ICCS/TPJMC: THE TWO PRG TPJMC LIAISON GROUPS WHICH WERE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN BINH DINH AND KONTUM ON JULY 21 AND 22 RESPECTIVELY (NHA TRANG 716, PARA 9) DID NOT IN FACT ARRIVE. CONSUL QUI NHON REPORTS THAT BINH DINH DEPUTY SECTOR COMMANDER TOLD HIM THAT THE PRG HAD DELAYED THEIR TRIP BECAUSE OF ALLEGED SECURITY PROBLEMS.

5. RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES: BINH DINH PROVINCE CHIEF, COL. HOANG DINH THO, STAGED A LARGE, IMPRESSIVE AND WELL-COORDINATED MILITARY PARADE ON THE MORNING OF JULY 21 TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE GVN'S REOCCUPATION OF BINH DINH'S NORTHERN DISTRICTS WHICH HAD BEEN LOST TO THE NVA IN THE 1972 SPRING OFFENSIVE. ALTHOUGH COL. THO WAS THE MOVING FORCE BEHIND THE DISPLAY, HE RECEIVED FULL SUPPORT FROM BRIG. GEN. NIEM, THE COMMANDER OF THE 22ND DIVISION, WHO VIRTUALLY STRIPPED THE PROVINCE SOUTH OF PHU CO PASS OF ARMOR SO AS TO PROVIDE TANKS AND APC'S FOR THE PARADE.

6. THE MARCH-PAST FEATURED MORE THAN 30 ARMORED VEHICLES AS WELL AS ARTILLERY, NEWLY ACQUIRED ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS, AND ARVN INFANTRY AND SIGNAL UNITS. THE RF/PF AND PSDF ALSO PARTICIPATED, AND HELICOPTERS AND JET AIRCRAFT FLEW OVER THE PARADE ROUTE. THE MR 2 COMMANDER, MAJ. GEN. TOAN, AND THE COMMANDERS OF THE 22ND AND 23RD DIVISIONS WERE PRESENT AND TOOK PART IN AN AWARDS CEREMONY FOR MEN WHO HAD PERFORMED OUTSTANDINGLY IN THE 1972 COUNTER-OFFENSIVE AND IN THE POST-CEASEFIRE FIGHTING. THE PARADE AND AWARDS CEREMONY WERE TELEVISED LOCALLY AND WERE QUITE IMPRESSIVE.

7. REPORT OF NEW DESIGNATION FOR ENEMY UNIT: THANH AN DISTRICT CHIEF (PLEIKU PROVINCE) TOLD PROV REP JULY 17 THAT HE HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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RECIEVED INFORMATION THAT A NEW 50-MAN ENEMY UNIT EQUIPPED WITH MORTARS AND MACHINE GUNS WAS LIVING IN THE HAMLET OF PLEI GAO GENG (ZA 153.367). THIS UNIT DIFFERED FROM OTHER ENEMY FORMATIONS, HOWEVER, IN THAT IT FLEW A NEW AND DIFFERENT FLAG AND WORE AN ARM PATCH NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN IN PROVINCE.

8. DISTRICT CHIEF SAID HIS AGENTS REPORTED THAT THE MEN OF THE

UNIT REFERRED TO THEMSELVES AS THE "THIRD FORCE" AND DESCRIBED THEMSELVES AS NEITHER NVA NOR PRG BUT AS A NEWLY-CREATED MILITARY ELEMENT THAT WOULD PROTECT ENEMY-HELD AREAS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. THEIR FLAG IS DIVIDED INTO EQUAL HALVES HORIZONTALLY, GREEN ABOVE AND RED BELOW. IN THE UPPER LEFT QUARTER IS A CIRCULAR DEVICE IN YELLOW. THIS DISK IS BORDERED IN BLACK AND INTERSECTED AT THE CENTER BY TWO BLACK LINES, CREATING THE EFFECT OF AN AIMING SIGHT. THE SHOULDER PATCH IS CIRCULAR AND QUARTERED, THE QUADRANTS BEING, CLOCKWISE; RED, WHITE, YELLOW AND BLACK. THE CIRCLE IS BORDERED IN BLACK WITH A SMALLER CONCENTRIC CIRCLE, ALSO IN BLACK, UNITING THE QUADRANTS.

9. COMMENT: WE RECALL THAT THE COMMUNISTS IN THEIR RADIO BROADCASTS DURING THE 1968 TET OFFENSIVE SPOKE OF NEW, NON-NLF "PATRIOTIC" FORCES FIGHTING ON THEIR SIDE. THEY CREATED THIS FICTION BOTH IN THE HOPE THAT ARVN UNITS WOULD DEFECT AND TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THEIR POLITICAL "THIRD FORCE" OF THAT TIME, THE "ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC AND PEACE FORCES." NOTHING CAME OF THE EFFORT, HOWEVER, AND THEY SOON DROPPED THE "PATRIOTIC FORCES" FROM THEIR PROPAGANDA. THIS LITTLE UNIT IN PLEIKU MAY BE THE PRECURSOR OF A SIMILAR EFFORT TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO A "THIRD FORCE" IN OPPOSITION TO THE GVN AND FIGHTING IN PARALLEL WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

10. RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES AND POWS: MR 2 NATIONAL POLICE HQ IN PLEIKU TOLD PROV REP JULY 21 THAT PRG WOULD RELEASE CIVILIAN DETAINEES AND ARVN POW'S IN ACCORDANCE WITH FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: A) CIVILIAN DETAINEES: TEN IN KHANH HTA (BR 780.580), FIVE IN PHU YEN (CQ 011.680) AND EIGHT IN KONTUM (ZB 165.130, ALL ON JULY 25; B) ARVN POW'S: 260 ON JULY 26 AND 150 ON JULY 28, ALL IN PLEIKU PROVINCE AT YA 850.250 (VICINITY OF DUC CO).

COMMENT:

THIS SCHEDULE VARIES ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM THAT FURNISHED TO PLEIKU KOOTUM POLOFF JULY 20 BY CHIEF GVN ELEMENT TPJMC  
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IN PLEIKU AND REPORTED IN WEEKLY OVERVIEW (NHA TRANG 0716). THE 410 ARVN POW'S ARE THOSE ORIGINALLY TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH. SIGNED ENGLE  
UNQUOTE MARTIN

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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